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WKU Student Affairs

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► On Thursday

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Violence in Kenya jeopardizes plans for summer study programs.

ONLINE

► City commission

Commission votes split about renewal of franchise that distributes gas under Bowling Green.

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WEATHER

TUESDAY

38°/32°



WEDNESDAY

36°/26°



THURSDAY

39°/37°



FRIDAY

42°/28°



SATURDAY

43°/29°



COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD

Tuesday, February 19, 2008
Volume 83, Number 34
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky
www.wkuherald.com



RUSH JAGOE/HERALD

Hip-Hop artist Yung Joc is swarmed by a crowd of fans on Saturday at the Crimson and Cream Ball at the Holiday Inn Univeristy Plaza. About 500 people went to hear Joc perform earlier at the Garrett Conference Center, but he was not allowed to because of safety concerns on campus.

It went down

Young Joc's concert canceled due to 'unsafe conditions'

LARRY ROWELL
Herald reporter

Hip-hop artist Yung Joc's concert caught a bad rap Saturday night after the show was canceled following an alleged fight and a string of eight arrests.

Campus police said they canceled the concert — scheduled from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Garrett Conference Center — at about 12:30 a.m., after a fight broke out inside the ballroom.

But the show's promotions director, Brandon Forrest, said no fight actually took place, and that police made it impossible for Joc to perform on time.

Capt. Kerry Hatchett said four individuals were arrested as a result of the fight, including two Western football players, Timothy J. Nelson and Darrius L. Brooks.

Nelson, a freshman linebacker, was charged with disorderly conduct after police said they refused to comply with their requests to leave the problem area. Brooks, a freshman defensive back, was also charged with disorderly conduct.

Hatchett said three other arrests stemmed from police confiscating marijuana, alcohol, three knives, a sharpened hair pick, a can of

Mace and a chain.

The show's promoter, Desmond Bell, of Bowling Green, was also charged with criminal trespassing.

"Disturbance" in dispute

Nearly 500 people were waiting to see Yung Joc perform at midnight, but the musician never took the stage because police wouldn't allow him to park his tour bus on campus, according to Forrest, of Horsemen Entertainment.

Further adding to the confusion, Forrest said police wouldn't allow the Atlanta artist to enter by a side door with direct access to the stage, causing him to be unable to perform until 12:30 a.m.

Forrest said the alleged fight that caused the cancellation wasn't a fight at all.

Forrest said the "disturbance" was actually two men "chest bumping" because they were excited about a song played by the DJ.

But police said they canceled the concert prior to his arrival because of unsafe conditions.

SEE **CONCERT**, PAGE 6

Beshear proposes licenses for 12 casinos

MICHELLE DAY
Herald reporter

Gov. Steve Beshear presented his proposal for a gaming amendment to the General Assembly on Thursday, which is designed to bring in new revenue to Kentucky during the budget crisis.

Beshear's proposal would allow licenses for 12 casinos, five free-standing and seven on current racetracks.

The proposed locations for the freestanding casinos are Daviess County, Kenton or Campbell counties, Boyd or Greenup counties, Christian County and either Laurel or Whitley counties.

The governor said he expects expanded gaming to bring in about \$600 million every year once all the casinos are running.

Education would get the biggest chunk of the revenue gambling brings in — about 50 percent.

SEE **CASINOS**, PAGE 7

Shooting spotlights preparedness

HOLLY BROWN
Herald reporter

Another school shooting left six dead and 18 injured at Northern Illinois University last Thursday.

The shooter, Steven Kazmierczak, emerged from the curtain behind the graduate student teacher with a shotgun and two handguns 15 minutes before the end of class.

In the wake of a school shooting, school administrators at Western and around the country are forced to consider their own safety measures. Another, more daunting challenge is highlighted too: identifying potential threats and preventing tragedy.

The urge to strengthen security and refine crisis response and prevention began within communities after the Virginia Tech shooting in April 2007, which left 33 dead.

SEE **SHOOTING**, PAGE 8

Up 'til Dawn efforts raise more than \$100,000 for St. Jude

ERIC ISBELL
Herald reporter

Amid a mass of jogging pants and sleepwear, excitement was building for a cause. Many students were giving up their night of sleep to give a message its meaning: "Fight the yawn, stay up 'til dawn."

That was the official message at the Up 'til Dawn finale on Friday. The Up 'til Dawn celebration was put on in celebration for Western's successful fundraising activities for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Students sent out letters asking for donations

and raised more than \$100,000, according to Adam Sields, the St. Jude representative at the event.

Western raised more than \$109,000 last year, making Western the third largest university fundraiser for the hospital.

The title for the event came from a quote from Danny Thomas, founder of St. Jude: "No child shall die in the dawn of life," said Villa Hills senior Kathleen Hennessy, assistant director for Western's Up 'til Dawn.

SEE **DAWN**, PAGE 7



LUKE SHARRETT/HERALD

Phi Mu sorority sisters cheer during the Up 'til Dawn Greek dodgeball tournament in Preston Center Friday night.

2DAY

BY THE NUMBERS

8

Number of Presidents that didn't go to college.

12

Average number of newborns given the wrong parents daily.

Sources: <http://www.lhwilson.com/print/facts/pres.cfm>
http://www.robinsweb.com/humor/strange_things.html

► NEWS BRIEFS

Rape reported in Rodes-Harlin Hall

A female Western student reported being raped and sodomized early Sunday morning in Rodes-Harlin Hall, according to police reports.

The victim knew her assailant, campus police said.

Police aren't releasing further information pending investigation, said Mike Dowell, communications officer for campus police.

— Larry Rowell

WKU student involved in car accident

Sally E. Schiller, a freshman from Franklin, Tenn., was involved in a car accident on Interstate 65 on her way home from Bowling Green Friday afternoon.

Late Monday, Schiller was in serious condition at Vanderbilt University Hospital.

Check www.wkuherald.com for updates as more information becomes available.

— Susie Laun

► CORRECTIONS

Due to a Herald error, William Paul was incorrectly identified in a front page article about his father, Rand Paul, in the Feb. 14 issue.

Robert Paul, not William Paul, is the 8-year-old son mentioned in the story.

Due to a Herald error, reporter Marianne Hale's name was misspelled in the byline of the article "Legislators look at raising revenue" on the front page.

Her first name is Marianne, not Marianna.

The Herald regrets the errors.

The College Heights Herald corrects all confirmed errors that are brought to reporters' or editors' attention. Please call 745-6011 or 745-5044 or report a correction, or e-mail us at editor@chherald.com.



WHAT'S GOING ON?

The calendar runs every Tuesday. Send your event post request by 3 p.m. Monday to calendar@chherald.com.

TUESDAY, FEB. 19

- Kayak Roll Clinic, 6 p.m.- 9 p.m., Preston Center
- SGA Student Senate, 5 p.m., DUC 305
- Student Play Festival, 8 p.m.- 9 p.m., Gordon Wilson Hall Lab Theatre
- Talisman Yearbook Club Photos, 6 p.m.- 10 p.m., MMTH Photo Lab Studio
- 180, 8 p.m., Grise Hall Auditorium

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20

- Women's Basketball v. South Alabama, 7 p.m., Diddle Arena
- Illusionist Andre Cole, 8 p.m., Van Meter Auditorium
- Marathon Book Reading: Beloved by Toni Morrison, 8 a.m.- 8 p.m., DUC Lobby
- Talisman Yearbook Club Photos, 6 p.m.- 10 p.m., MMTH Photo Lab Studio

THURSDAY, FEB. 21

- BGWSO Sweethearts Concert, 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, Downtown Bowling Green
- “Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes,” 11:30 a.m.- 12:45 p.m., Cherry Hall 125
- “Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes,” 8 p.m., Niteclass
- Epilepsy Social Group Gathering, 6 p.m.- 7:30 p.m., Spencer's Coffee House
- Hay Baler Demo, 6 p.m., Ag Expo Center
- Men's Basketball v. South Alabama, 7 p.m., Diddle Arena
- Talisman Yearbook Club Photos, 6 p.m.- 10 p.m., MMTH Photo Lab Studio
- Weather Spotters Class, 6 p.m., Van Meter Auditorium

FRIDAY, FEB. 22

- Baseball v. Bowling Green State, 3 p.m., Western
- “Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes,” 11:30 a.m.- 12:45 p.m., Cherry Hall 125
- Softball v. Mercer, 1 p.m., Macon, Georgia
- Softball v. Mississippi State, 10 a.m, Macon, Georgia
- Women's Tennis at Austin Peay, noon
- Upward Basketball Recognition Programs, 6 p.m., Van Meter Auditorium

SATURDAY, FEB. 23

- Baseball v. Bowling Green State, 2 p.m., Western
- Focus on Western, 8 a.m., Campus registration in Diddle Arena
- Indoor Track and Field at SBC, Murfreesboro, Tenn.
- Lucky Spurs 4-H Riding Practice, 9 a.m., Ag Expo Center
- Men's Basketball v. Louisiana-Monroe, 7 p.m., Diddle Arena
- Softball at Mercer Wingate Classic Championship, Time: TBA, Macon, Georgia
- Softball v. Austin Peay, 6 p.m., Macon, Georgia
- Softball v. Nicholls State, 6 p.m., Macon, Georgia
- WKU Physics olympics science of wizardry, 8:30 a.m.- 2 p.m., Thompson Complex Central Wing
- Women's Basketball v. Louisiana-Monroe, Time: TBA, Diddle Arena

► NEWS BRIEF

Furnishings spared from demolition to be resold

Eight Normal Street and Regents Avenue properties will be emptied during the next two weeks.

The properties will be used to build a new College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

The Warren County chapter of Habitat for Humanity, Western's Habitat chapter and the Bowling Green Fire Department will continue removing furniture and any other recyclable materials from the properties.

Furniture will be sold at Habitat's restore, the money going to other Habitat projects, said George Mendoza Jr.,

Habitat's executive director.

Property demolition begins March 8, said Doug Ault, director of planning, design and construction.

The Fire Department will use the houses to conduct training courses before they are demolished.

— Marianne Hale

► CRIME REPORTS

Arrests

Megan P. Walsh, Kenilwood Way, was arrested on Feb. 17 on Normal Street on charges of driving under the influence, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was released from the Warren County Regional Jail on Feb. 18 as surety to her father.

Timothy J. Nelson, Barnes-Campbell Hall, was arrested on Feb. 17 in Garrett Conference Center on charges of disorderly conduct. He was released from

the Warren County jail on Feb. 18 on a court order.

Derrius L. Brooks, Pine Mountain, Ga., was arrested on Feb. 17 on charges of disorderly conduct in Garrett Conference Center. He was released from the Warren County jail on Feb. 18 on a \$500 unsecured bond.

Paul M. Delcotto, Danville, was arrested on Feb. 17 behind Poland Hall on charges of alcohol intoxication in a public place. He was released from the Warren County jail on Feb. 18 on time served.

J M. Wheatley, Louisville, was arrested on Feb. 15 in Barnes-Campbell on charges of possession of marijuana. He was released from the Warren County jail on Feb. 18 on a court order.

Michael Y. Lear, Madison, Tenn., was arrested on Feb. 15 on State Street on charges of an improper turn, operating on a suspended license and failure to produce proof of insurance. He was released from the Warren County jail on a \$1,000 cash bond.

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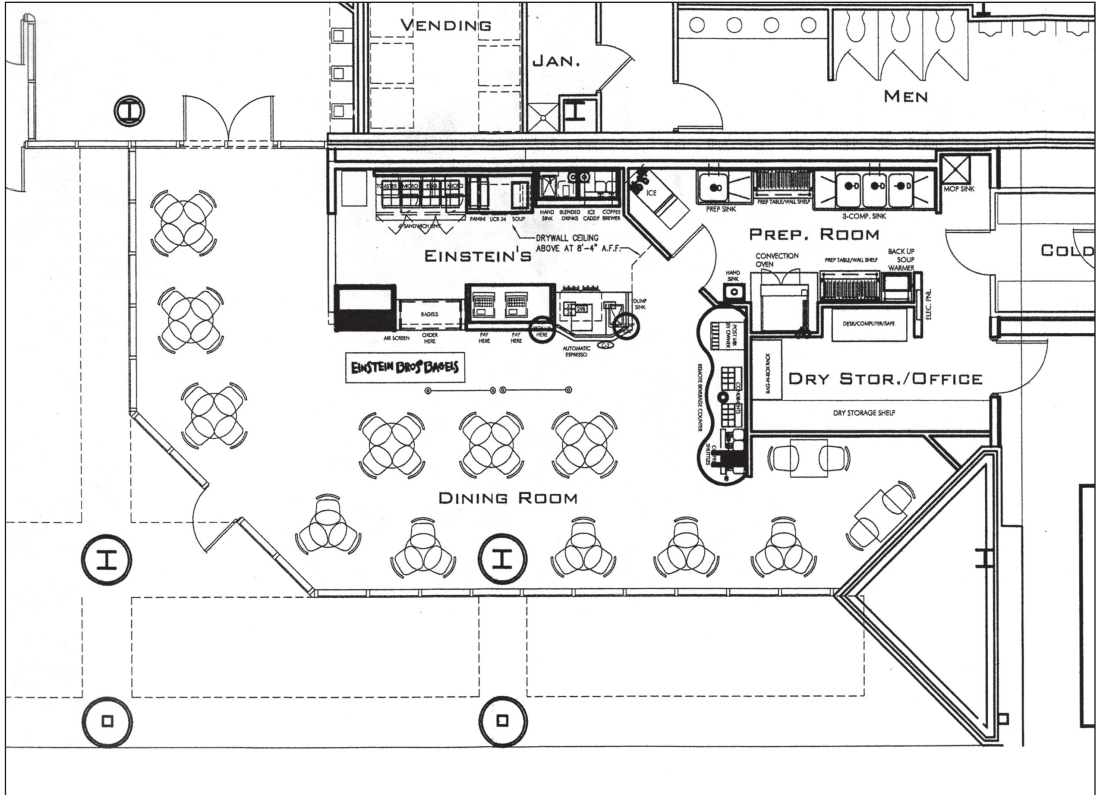
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FACILITIES



Einstein Bros. Bagels Floor Plan

Bagel shop causes concerns for some journalism faculty

MAGEN McCRAREY
Herald reporter

An Einstein Bros. Bagels is opening on March 3 in the back patio area of Mass Media and Technology Hall.

The hype is big, but not everyone is as excited as some students.

Some employees of the School of Journalism and Broadcasting are concerned that the trash and traffic brought by the shop might lead to equipment damage.

Some also say that the space used for the shop should be used for important fundraising functions.

"This building is for journalism and broadcasting, not bagels and coffee," said assistant broadcasting professor James LeTourneau.

ARAMARK and Western chose to place the bagel shop in that area because Mass Media is open all day and there is high traffic of residential students and commuters, said Roy Biggers, director of the restaurant and catering group.

There were a number of meetings and discussions about where to put the shop before construction, said John Osborne, associate vice president of campus services and facilities.

"Although the input was not a 100 percent agreement, it

"I plan to boycott Einstein simply because now we have no space to use for traditions anymore. It diminishes the integrity of the school as an academic unit and as instructional technology."

— Pam Johnson
School of Journalism and Broadcasting director

was decided that the bagel shop would be a year-round benefit to the university," Osborne said.

When the School of Journalism and Broadcasting moved into Mass Media five years ago, members were proud of an outside area created for its use, Director Pam Johnson said.

What faculty and staff called "the terrace" overlooked the garden area and Guthrie Tower.

There, staff hosted barbecues for alumni and spring awards luncheons for students.

Johnson called these important traditions.

Johnson said that having events for alumni can bring money into the school.

"When alumni come back to visit, they could give \$6,000 to \$60,000," Johnson said.

The School of Journalism and Broadcasting won't get any money from the bagel shop, she said.

Johnson said it's important to have events for alumni to help journalism students in their future jobs and curriculum.

The school wasn't told about the project until it was already finalized, Johnson said.

"I plan to boycott Einstein simply because now we have no space to use for traditions anymore," Johnson said. "It diminishes the integrity of the

school as an academic unit and as instructional technology."

Most journalism and broadcasting faculty were also against building the shop, Johnson said.

Doug Ault, director of planning, design and construction, said Western had been looking to expand food options at south campus, but the current food area doesn't get used that often.

Mass Media was a more efficient place for the bagel shop.

Biggers said he thinks the shop will be a great addition to food services and hopes students will enjoy it.

Villa Hills junior Amy Roberts agreed.

"I'm excited about it. I can make a stop really fast without using a vending machine," Roberts said.

Louisville senior Brooke Winebrenner said she is concerned that the shop might hinder departmental expansions.

Masako Barnaby, coordinator of student computing, said her main concern is about equipment damage in the Mass Media computer lab.


Biggers said he hopes that students don't make a mess.

"It is not our job to clean up other buildings, or anything outside of our own," Biggers said.

Barnaby said she would like to maintain control of traffic in the computer lab without creating a hostile environment.

She said she isn't against the bagel shop, but she wants people to enjoy it outside of the lab.

Reach Magen McCrarey
at news@chherald.com.




DON'T MISS A SECOND

WKU vs. South Alabama

Thursday, February 21st at 7 pm

Wear WHITE and WHITEOUT Diddle Arena

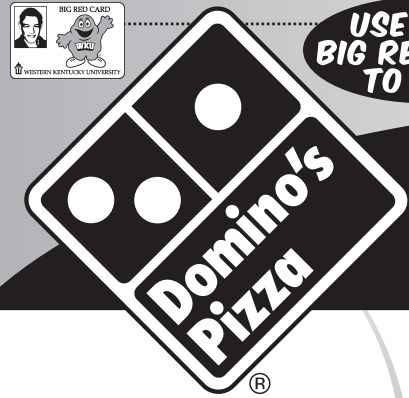
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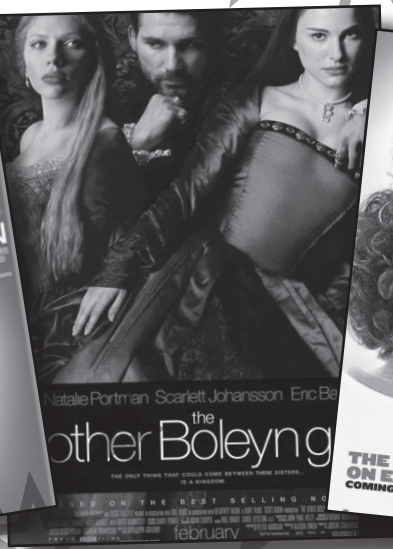




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Do you think Western should have Presidents Day off?



Pauletha Butts
Bowling Green junior

"I think we should have Presidents Day off because it is very important to not only celebrate Independence Day, but also the presidents who made it possible."



Megan Fisher
Frankfort senior

"When I found out that middle schools down here get off (for Presidents Day) I was shocked. I don't think anyone should get it off. We already take enough time off for federal holidays."



Danielle Straub
Stroudsburg, Penn. sophomore

"We should have Presidents Day off because every other student at every other school has it off, but to be honest I don't really care about Presidents Day."



Nathan Warren
Louisville sophomore

"I don't care about Presidents Day. I think Election Day is Presidents Day. It makes more sense to reflect on our future presidents than our past ones."



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SUBMISSIONS

The Herald encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of public interest. **Here are a few guidelines:**

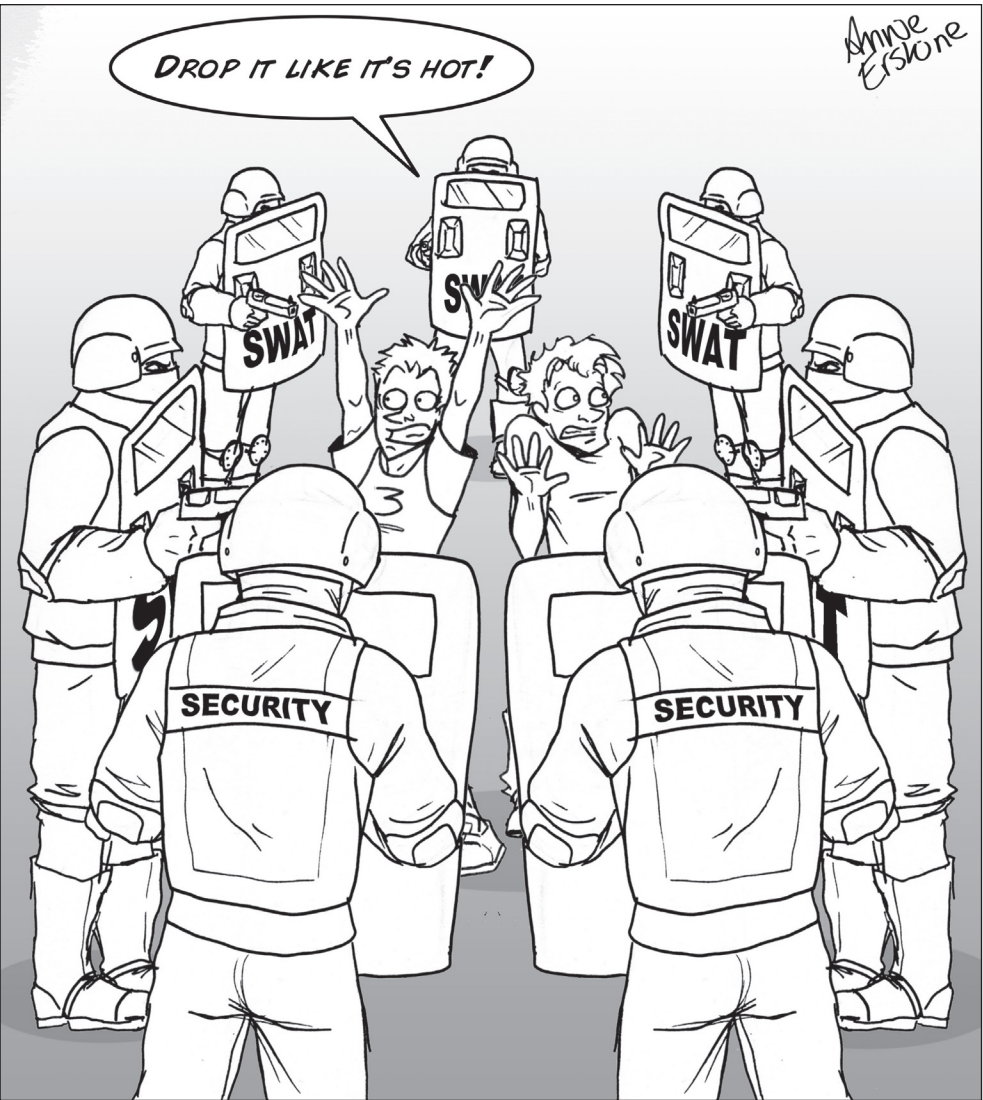
1. Letters should not exceed 250 words, and commentaries should be 700-800 words.
2. Originality counts. Please don't submit plagiarized work.
3. For verification, letters and commentaries MUST include your name, phone number, home town and classification or title.
4. Letters may not run in every edition due to space.
5. The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters for style, grammar, length and clarity. The Herald does NOT print libelous submissions.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in this newspaper DO NOT reflect those of Western's employees or of its administration.

OPINION

STAFF EDITORIAL



Police bring the heat

Western's new rules at dances cracks down on party fouls

The Herald reported Feb. 12 that security has been tightening at dances on campus. Campus police have introduced new regulations for dances and concerts taking place at the Garrett Center. The rules have made it so attendees must show a valid Western ID, they are searched at the door by police and only 50 non-Western students are allowed to attend and have to be pre-registered.

The promoter for Saturday's Yung Joc concert had to pay an additional \$3,000 for campus police to act as security for the show. This included 17 campus police officers, two Bowling Green police cars and a K-9 unit.

Some feel these rules are helping security at these events, and the arrests made during Feb. 8 Omega Psi Phi dance and the cancellation of the Yung Joc concert seem to agree.

Everything should be done to make sure that students attending events on campus are kept safe. We also acknowledge and applaud campus police for identifying security threats and taking the appropriate actions to minimize their impact. Decreasing drugs and weapons on campus makes everyone feel safer.

It is hoped that the reports of arrests due to intoxication, drugs and potential violence will dissuade potential offenders from committing crimes on Western's campus. Western has made it clear that events at Garrett will not occur without supervision from law enforcement.

It's important that this increased security is evident at all events on campus in the future, not just rap concerts. After all, people bring weed to Willie Nelson concerts, too.

This editorial represents the majority opinion of the Herald's 10-member editorial board.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students should have weather radios

On Feb. 5, a devastating tornado outbreak hit several states killing many people. One of those tornadoes struck Union University in Jackson, Tenn. Although no students died in the storm, I cannot fathom the thought of a large tornado hitting Western. Some of the students at Union did not know the storm was coming or disregarded the warning. I strongly recommend that students purchase a NOAA weather radio for their dorm, house or apartment, and especially if they live in a mobile home. It will warn people of coming bad weather such as a severe thunderstorm or tornado. The radio also alerts the person of industrial emergencies such as toxic chemical spills, civil unrest and forest fires. These radios are especially crucial at night when one is asleep. In the middle of the night, one may not be watching TV to see if the storm is coming. Do not depend on the tornado sirens because those are designed only for people who are outdoors, not indoors. The NOAA weather radio alert tone will sound to wake one up to hear the warning for their county. NOAA weather radios are also battery operated so that if the power goes out, one can continue to receive crucial weather information. The new weather radio models allow one to program their own county into the radio so that the alert goes off only for the county entered into the radio. Most models cost about \$30 dollars. If a student has roommates, have everyone pull their money together to get one. It could mean the difference between life and death.

Aaron Tanner
Jacksonville, Ala.

Have some class in class

I recently convinced my girlfriend to return to college to pursue a career in Emergency Medicine. She has a lot of classes for the time being at BGCC and has repeatedly commented to me about the appalling behavior of some of her more childish classmates. She told me that two days ago at BGCC she heard people arguing, being loud, kicking over chairs, wrestling, calling each other the N-word, cursing loudly ... you name it. If it was stupid, disorderly behavior, they were doing it. She told me a few months ago that there was a fistfight in the lobby area. Good grief, what is going on over there?! I go to college at Western too and wonder, "why can't these people understand that this is COLLEGE ... not the 'hood.'" Reprimand them, expel them, do whatever is needed, but don't allow this to go on while we pay tuition to go to a respectable university.

Robert Moore
Bowling Green

Holidays: We should observe them all

I don't understand how the administration can decide which FEDERAL holidays are important and which are not. This day, Presidents Day, has been a federal holiday for more than 20 years, but the university decided that it wasn't as important as other holidays, so we still have class. We observe EVERY federal holiday except for that one. I wonder why? We would not have the freedoms we have if not for the presidents observed on Presidents Day. Think about it.

Jessica Crafton

COMMENTARY

Surviving the storm: Student shares story of tornado's terror at Union University



Heather Martin
Union University junior
Erin, Tenn.

JACKSON, Tenn. — Though stormy, I assumed we were having yet another ordinary, frustrating tornado drill the night of Feb 5. My mentor, Julie Boyer, came to ride out storm with my roommate Kellie Roe and me — along with three girls from upstairs.

Two minutes before the tornado hit, my resident assistant burst in and yelled, "Get in the tub, now!"

Our ears started popping. The others were already in. Julie, holding my hand, jumped in but only my torso face down cleared the edge. The lights went dark. Hail pounded. The tornado hit, sounding like a thousand "trains." Julie was still holding my hand, while my legs were being pulled up by the tornado.

Then everything collapsed. The pressure was tremendous, and the weight pressed us farther down. I remember thinking, "This is NOT happening to me."

As quickly as it came, there was silence. Nothing could be seen. One girl was able to call 911.

"Every student on this campus is either dead or trapped like we are. This is where I am going to die. No one will ever find us. We will be here for days, and we won't last that long," I thought to myself.

My body was twisted like a corkscrew. Breathing was my biggest issue as the floor above pressed down across my back. My legs hung over the edge of tub, pinned under debris. Death seemed imminent. I had only a small pocket of air. I presumed I would pass out and would then be with Jesus. Though morbid, the thought actually allowed me to move on and not panic about the process of my death.

Then, I realized someone next to me was exhaling her last breaths. I called Julie's name. The breathing was interrupted, and she responded to me. I thought, "Dear Lord, I cannot handle losing another friend." I told Julie to just breathe, not to talk. The way I was positioned atop her — when I moved, she either couldn't breathe or experienced excruciating pain. The fear in my heart was indescribable — this precious person was going to die underneath me!

I prayed aloud, quoted Scripture and held Kellie's hand. After accepting this would be the night of my death, I simply focused on breathing. I continued to pray aloud until I was out of breath and couldn't pray out loud anymore; I would be praying in my heart and mind.

"Heather, it's going to be okay," Kellie said.

She doesn't recall this, but God spoke through her at that moment. I had an overwhelming sense of peace. Peace — not because I was confident of being rescued —but peace that we would either join Christ in heaven or He would preserve us for a little while longer.

The tornado struck at 7:02 p.m.; firemen arrived around 7:15 p.m. One fireman heard muffled sounds near the 15 feet pile of debris, which had once been my dorm room.

Julie's breathing was labored. She was falling in and out of con-

siousness. We were terrified that as the rescuers disturbed our tub of refuge, the rubble and debris would shift and the pressure would increase. Several of the women were screaming — I struggled to breathe and could hardly scream. Light finally broke through, but Julie was struggling.

The firemen were telling us not to panic. I could see the fireman's face.

"Can you see my face?" I screamed. "I am not panicking. You have to listen to me. There is someone stuck under me. If I move, she can't breathe. Her neck is exposed. You can't slide the debris. You must lift it!"

Finally, for the first time in 45 minutes, we breathed in fresh air.

The other girls were freed, but my legs were pinned. A fireman held my head and my twisted torso. I couldn't move my legs. A two-by-four at my right knee kept the debris from crushing my legs. Extraordinary maneuvering and strength by the rescuers finally freed me.

Though I experience pain from strained back muscles, my body is intact. The destruction and chaos of that night is overwhelming. We shouldn't have survived. The only explanation I have to offer is the amazing power, strength, grace and love of Jesus Christ. Despite the tangled rubble, He knew how each board, brick, piece of metal and concrete was placed. Having often wondered what would be my dying thoughts, now I know.

I lived through a tornado, yet I am not fearless. The coming weeks and months scare me. Certain sounds and feelings terrify and paralyze me at times. My friends almost died beneath me, and I struggle to grapple with that. I struggle to sleep because of the vivid images when I shut my eyes. But, I find hope in this: God knew, as I lay pinned in that tub, that I would survive. He is the One responsible for my rescue. Simply put, He is not yet through with me. He already knows what each second of the next few months hold for my friends, my family and me. This keeps me going. He sustained me through the tornado and will sustain me in the days to come.

My friend Beth, a nurse on site that night, quoted these verses: "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." (2 Cor. 4:8-9)

My words about God may sound odd if you don't know Him personally. Here's the truth: These events are inexplicable unless I acknowledge God's presence. Despite the mounds of debris, He covered us with His protection. I should not be alive today. He obviously has plans for my days on earth. He is good. If you don't know Him, you should. He loves you. He wants a relationship with you. I pray that through my story, you have caught a glimpse of who He is — His love, sovereignty, strength, and grace — and ultimately, His salvation.

STATE GOVERNMENT

Retirement, academy bills making strides in assembly

MICHELLE DAY
Herald reporter

The two main pieces of legislation that Western wants passed are moving through the General Assembly.

A bill that would set a flat rate for universities to contribute to the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System (KTRS) passed in the Senate on Jan. 30 by a unanimous vote.

Another bill that would allow the Academy of Math and Science to issue high school diplomas to students passed in the House on Feb. 5.

The KTRS bill would relieve universities from increasing amounts paid to KTRS for Optional Retirement Plan (OPR) employees, said Robbin Taylor, assistant to the president for governmental relations.

The bill would also make Western more competitive when recruiting new faculty.

ORP options are sometimes more affordable and flexible for employees than KTRS options, Human Resources Director Tony Glisson said.

Universities still have to pay money to KTRS for employees that choose a different retirement plan.

The university contributes 13.84 percent of each

employee's paycheck to the employee's retirement account, Glisson said.

The amount paid to KTRS is deducted from the amount that goes into an ORP employee's retirement account.

Now, the amount Western has to pay to KTRS for ORP employees is 6.64 percent. That means 7.2 percent would actually go into the employee's account.

The bill would set that rate at 5.1 percent.

The rate universities put into KTRS has been increasing and unpredictable, Glisson said.

"(The bill) allows stability and predictability that we've not had previously and more importantly, a higher amount in terms of contribution level that goes into employees' accounts," he said.

Potential employees could be swayed to come to Western based on the higher rate, Glisson said.

The bill is now in the House, where the academy bill met success, passing on a unanimous vote.

The academy bill is now in the Senate.

Rep. Frank Rasche, D-Paducah, who sponsors the academy bill, said it will allow the academy to function without

having to arrange contracts with other high schools for students' funds and diplomas.

"It's a new type of school that's kind of unique," he said. "The bill simply streamlines a lot of those things it does."

Right now, a student who graduates from the academy receives both a diploma from the academy and one from his or her high school, said Julia Roberts, executive director of gifted studies.

The bill would mean the academy wouldn't have to contract with every high school so students can receive a high school diploma.

The bill also ensures students at the academy are eligible for the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship and provides Support Educational Excellence in Kentucky funds directly to the academy.

SEEK funds is the money the state government gives to school districts for transportation and special needs students based on the amount of students.

Rasche expects the bill to pass in the Senate.

"The Senate's its own creature, but I think it'll be all right," he said.

Reach Michelle Day at news@chherald.com.

CAMPUS GOVERNMENT

Rally will put legislators and students together

NEIL SIDERS
Herald reporter

Buses rented by the Student Government Association will open their doors to students to take them to the annual rally in Frankfort at 6:30 a.m. tomorrow in front of the Downing University Center.

The group will leave at about 7 a.m. and return at about 5:30 p.m.

The goal of this rally is to encourage legislators to apply alternative methods of increasing revenue in order to avoid dramatic budget cuts to education, said SGA Executive Chief of Staff Skylar Jordan.

Students who go will get an excused absence for the day and can earn six hours of community service toward some campus clubs' requirements.

"Not only can students do something great for Western, but they can get a little help for themselves," SGA President Jeanne Johnson said.

Students will sit down indi-

vidually with legislators, which is key to the success of the rally, Johnson said.

SGA used this method in the past, but this year SGA hopes to accomplish this part of their approach on a much greater scale, Jordan said.

SGA and the students who participate will also gather at the Capitol and join other schools to protest.

Members of the soccer team which was recently eliminated, because of the budget crunch, will also travel with SGA to protest.

The rally, combined with the Listen Up Legislator drive on Feb. 14 in which students were encouraged to write letters and make phone calls to legislators, is an effort to fight major cuts across the board proposed to offset the recent budget crisis.

President Gary Ransdell encouraged such action on Jan. 17.

"Be loud. Be aggressive. Raise hell. And don't apologize for it," Ransdell said.

The SGA is hoping to answer

Ransdell's challenge, Jordan said.

The SGA members will also deliver the letters during Wednesday's rally.

The rally is a way for the students who normally get overlooked in the legislative process to get their voices heard, Jordan said.

"I want to tell them how vital it is that the students show," Jordan said.

Jordan said SGA hopes the community service allowances and excused absences encourage participation, but the greatest benefit to the students who participate will be protecting the value of their education through ensuring that Western is funded adequately.

SGA won't know the effect of their efforts until the lawmakers vote on the new budget, Jordan said.

"The only way to gauge success is success," he said.

Reach Neil Siders at news@chherald.com.

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CONCERT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to the company’s lease agreement, police have the discretion to “suspend the event due to public safety concerns at any time during the event.”

During an interview at the Warren County Regional Jail early Sunday, Bell said the cancellation cost him “tremendous loss.”

Bell said the expenses for the event included \$20,000 paid to Joc, \$3,000 for security and \$750 for the ballroom rental.

Police wouldn’t specify how Bell was “trespassing” when he was arrested, but Howard Bailey, associate vice president for student affairs and development, said the former

student was banned from campus in 2002 after violating a student conduct code.

Bailey refused to specify which code.

According to jail officials, in 2002, Bell was charged with trafficking a controlled substance, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Bell didn’t comment on the specifics of his ban from campus, but did say police arrested him for the “wrong reason” Saturday.

New security tested

Western recently adopted new security regulations for events at Garrett, one of which stated that all attendees will be searched upon entering the event.

Horsemen Entertainment contracted to pay Western \$42 an hour for 17 campus officers to provide security for the event, Hatchett said.

Six police cars patrolled the campus during the event; four campus police cars and two from the Bowling Green Police Department, one the K-9 unit, Hatchett said.

And security was of the utmost importance to promoters, who say Joc is an extremely popular artist; concert goers turned over \$10 to \$20 for the canceled show.

No one received a refund, Bell said, but added that he plans to reschedule the event.

Yung Joc, born Jasiel Robinson, won the 2006 Black Entertainment Television Hip-Hop award for best hip-hop track of the year, “Goin’ Down.”

He later made an appearance at the Crimson and Cream Ball at the Holiday Inn University Plaza, Bell said.

Reach Larry Rowell
at news@chherald.com.

COLUMN

Student play festival exposes audience to mirth, macabre



THE SCENIC ROUTE
Eric Isbell

Over this past weekend, Western was treated to a performance of the thespian variety. Western’s Student Play Festival 2008 started last Thursday in Gordon Wilson Lab Theater.

Students directed and performed three plays throughout the festival, which ends at 8 tonight.

When I made my visitation, it was a Valentine’s Day slump of sorts. So what better way to cheer a person up than the arts?

Little did I know of how much passion I was in for on that Hallmark holiday.

The first play, “Identity Crisis,” directed by Sarah Mackell, left me in a state of confusion. The play itself was an odyssey through the maze of sanity, searching for its solutions. I didn’t know whether to laugh at the comically nymphomaniacal mother, or the slight split personality of a father/brother/French lover.

All through the performance, I was laughing at the combined efforts of these characters. Through the humor, I kept

feeling a twinge of sympathy for poor Jane, the main character who was stuck in a nightmare, both mentally and in real life. Throughout it all, references to society trying to pass off psychological problems as no big deal could be seen.

The second play was presented, and quickly quelled any sort of mirth in my body. The second feature was called “The Gashlycrumb Tinies,” an adaptation of the book by Edward Gorey.

The plot centered around children whose names corresponded with letters of the alphabet, and the untimely demise that met them.

I was officially nervous through this performance. The aura that surrounded the act was eerie at the best definition, superbly macabre at the worst.

Festival director Rob Anderson got the original idea for the festival two years ago at the Hanger Theatre in Ithaca, N.Y.

“It’s hard to put a show like this on because not many people would back it,” he said. “College gives you a chance to experiment a lot.”

Nathan Dam, who played Head Master Oged Weary in “The Gashlycrumb Tinies,” said that Anderson originally approached him about this play the previous semester.

“We had no idea in hell how he was going to pull it off, but he did,” Dam said.

The senior from Henderson, Tenn., said not too many morbid stories could

be made into a play, but that Gorey’s was one who could be.

The last showing of the student plays are at 8 tonight at the Gordon Wilson Lab Theater at 8 p.m.

Reach Eric Isbell
at diversions@chherald.com.

COLUMN

From the field: What they don’t teach you in class



SEIZURES
Mike Duncan

Student teachers get more than they bargain for. I thought I was prepared for wild sixth-graders, crazy eighth-graders or lessons on life from middle schoolers. I was not.

My curriculum at Western prepared me to teach students about volleyball and soccer. But it didn’t prepare me to handle 40 kids on half of a basketball court while 40 more screamed on the other half.

I am currently student teaching physical education at a middle school in my hometown. I have an average class size of 34 (one class has 42), and I only have half of a court; the other half is occupied by another physical education class.

At Western I learned how to break down the fundamental skills of badminton, but no one told me what to do when a student seizes in the gym between classes. She was not even my student.

I saw her putting her books down as she was talking, then I turned away for a moment. When I turned back, she was on her back.

Apparently, this is a common occurrence with this student, and she wears a bracelet that you are supposed to rub on her neck and over her heart when it happens.

But I was halfway in shock myself. Acting as if I were in charge, I sent someone to get another teacher, and asked the students to give her some space. Thank the good Lord that there was a student there who knew what to do with the bracelet.

It didn’t take long, and the girl was standing back up and acting like nothing had happened. I handed her glasses to her, and another teacher let her know that she was not to be in the gym if she was not in a physical education class.

At Western, I learned about sportsmanship and leadership activities. In class last week, a student was holding a basketball with a very mischievous look on his face. I told him to put it where it belonged and received a life lesson.

“He hit me with it, so I get to hit him with it,” he said. “That’s how it works.”

Well, I am learning a lot about how things work.

Sometimes the kids (think they) are smarter than you are.

You don’t meet your objective in every lesson, but you make up for it later.

There are meetings, and paperwork and conferences; the job is never finished.

And if there is a snow delay, you still have to be on time.

But if there’s a snow day, you stay home.

Looking out my window at the ice-covered trees and the snow coming down, I feel like a kid again. Keep it coming, keep it coming.

Reach Mike Duncan
at diversions@chherald.com.

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LUKE SHARRETT/HERALD

Western’s fraternities and sororities competed against one another in the inter-Greek dodgeball tournament during Friday night’s Up ‘til Dawn fundraiser for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

DAWN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A hypnotist, some free food, a dodgeball competition and sumo wrestling were just a few of the things that helped more than 600 students from about 40 organizations stay awake from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. in the Preston Center that night.

Each student who signed in was given a bracelet with the name of a child at St. Jude who was benefiting from the event.

Sields wasn’t the only person thankful for these efforts. Many of the students who served on the executive committee this year for the event felt the same way.

Tompkinsville sophomore

Cory Gearlds said that it’s good to get excited about raising money for a cause.

Gearlds said that he thinks it’s a great thing to see all these people helping out for a good cause like St. Jude.

Gearlds’ bracelet had the name of a boy named Collin, whom Gearlds said he met at a conference last summer.

He said that they work so hard that donations keep coming in after the finale.

To participate, the students had to write a minimum of 10 letters asking for donations. If students hadn’t written the letters previously, they had the opportunity to write them at the event. According to Hennessey, the minimum amount of letters that students wrote was closer to 20 or 30.

Hennessey said the fundrais-

er started early this year, trying to raise the money for the event. They asked everyone to participate by making donations, not only the students, but faculty and staff as well.

She has seen the event’s involvement grow over time.

“The event used to be almost completely Greek in nature, but now other organizations have put in helping for the cause, participating in the events as well,” she said.

Louisville freshman Lauren Alder said the main reason why she was there was because her resident assistant asked her to volunteer at the event.

“We’re just here having some fun and helping raise money,” she said.

Reach Eric Isbell
at diversions@chherald.com.

NEWS BRIEF

Kelly Autism grant offers employment support

The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation gave the Kelly Autism Program a \$7,000 grant to support its School-to-Work Transition Program.

The program was notified about the grant a week and a half ago, said Marty Boman, assistant professor of special instructional programs.

Boman said the award will assist the School-to-Work Transition program by providing curriculum materials to teach KAP participants social skills to maintain jobs, and to provide mentors for the participants.

“The smiles on their faces when they get their first paycheck are worth a million dollars,” she said.

KAP’s mission for postsecondary and employment bound

students is to support young adults in obtaining meaningful employment by assisting them as they explore a variety of career choices.

The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation is a national organization whose mission is to award grants to programs that enrich the lives of adolescents and adults with autism.

— Emily Ulber

CASINOS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Health care would get about 20 percent, the second largest amount.

Some other programs that would receive money include compulsive gambling treatment, tourism, substance abuse treatment, environmental protection and livestock treatment.

Gambling would bring about \$500 million in license fees paid by the seven casinos at racetracks in the first year of the 2008-10 biennium, Beshear said in a recording on his Web site.

Gambling would bring in about \$482 million from license fees for the five free-standing casinos and tax revenue from the other seven casinos, Beshear said.

If the General Assembly approves the legislation, the constitutional amendment would be on the ballot in the November election.

The legislation is in the House of Representatives.

According to an article in the Lexington Herald-Leader, representatives will make changes, including simplifying the proposal, getting rid of a specific tax rate and revising the question that would be on the ballot.

The proposed question is 93 words long and doesn’t mention casinos until the 48th word.

Public opinion polls show that 80 percent of Kentucky residents want the right to vote on expanded gambling, according to the press release.

Kentucky faces a \$434 million budget imbalance. Beshear ordered a 3 percent cut to postsecondary education because of the imbalance, and he proposed an additional 12 percent cut that still has to be approved by the General Assembly.

“This is a critical time for Kentucky and its citizens,” Beshear said. “It’s time to let the people of Kentucky decide whether they want expanded gambling in this state.”

Beshear said gambling would bring money into Kentucky that residents are already spending at casinos in other states.

“Our people in essence pay taxes that pave Illinois roads, educate Indiana children and take care of seniors in West Virginia,” he said. “It is time to bring that money home.”

William Yung III, who owns three Kentucky hotels and casinos in other states, told The Associated Press that the gambling amendment wouldn’t be able to compete with casinos in other states because of the high tax rate.

Beshear’s plan has about a 50.6 percent tax rate on casinos.

Indiana, for example, has a tax rate of only 15 to 35 percent on casinos, said Yung, CEO of Columbia Sussex Corp based in Crestview Hills.

John-Mark Hack, head of the Say No To Casinos campaign, said university studies have shown that the costs of casinos outweigh the benefits.

Casinos take money away from businesses in the community and corrupt government officials, Hack said.

“My concern is government putting itself in a position to make losers of its citizens, to unfairly derive revenue, not from what people make or produce, but rather from what they lose,” he said.

President Gary Ransdell said he hasn’t seen the amendment or spoken with Beshear, so he isn’t taking a stance yet.

Ransdell said his concern is getting more money for education.

“We need revenue,” he said.

Reach Michelle Day
at news@chherald.com.

FACILITIES

Hearing on Normal Street property today

HOLLY BROWN
Herald reporter

The hearing to prove eminent domain over the property at 1672 Normal St. is today.

Western will attempt to demonstrate to Warren Circuit Judge Steve Wilson that the taking of the property owned by Howard Brown Clark Jr. is for public need.

“We are very comfortable with presenting that,” General Counsel Deborah Wilkins said.

The property lies within the site where the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences building is planned

to be built.

It’s the last site that needs to be purchased before the construction.

After Western offered to purchase the property from Clark for \$162,000, commissioners assigned to assess the property appraised it at \$205,306, the Herald reported last November.

If Western’s attorney Greg Stivers is able to prove public need to Wilson, Western will pay the amount determined by commissioners for the property into the court.

A jury trial will be set to determine the final value of the property Western will pay.

Before the jury trial, Clark can choose to take the amount offered by Western.

However, if that amount is more than the amount decided in the jury trial, Clark will have to reimburse the difference.

President Gary Ransdell said Jan. 17 that “whatever the court rules, we’ll pay.”

Clark referred questions to his attorney, David Broderick, who couldn’t be reached for comment.

The hearing begins at 9 a.m. in court room A of the Justice Center.

Reach Holly Brown
at news@chherald.com.



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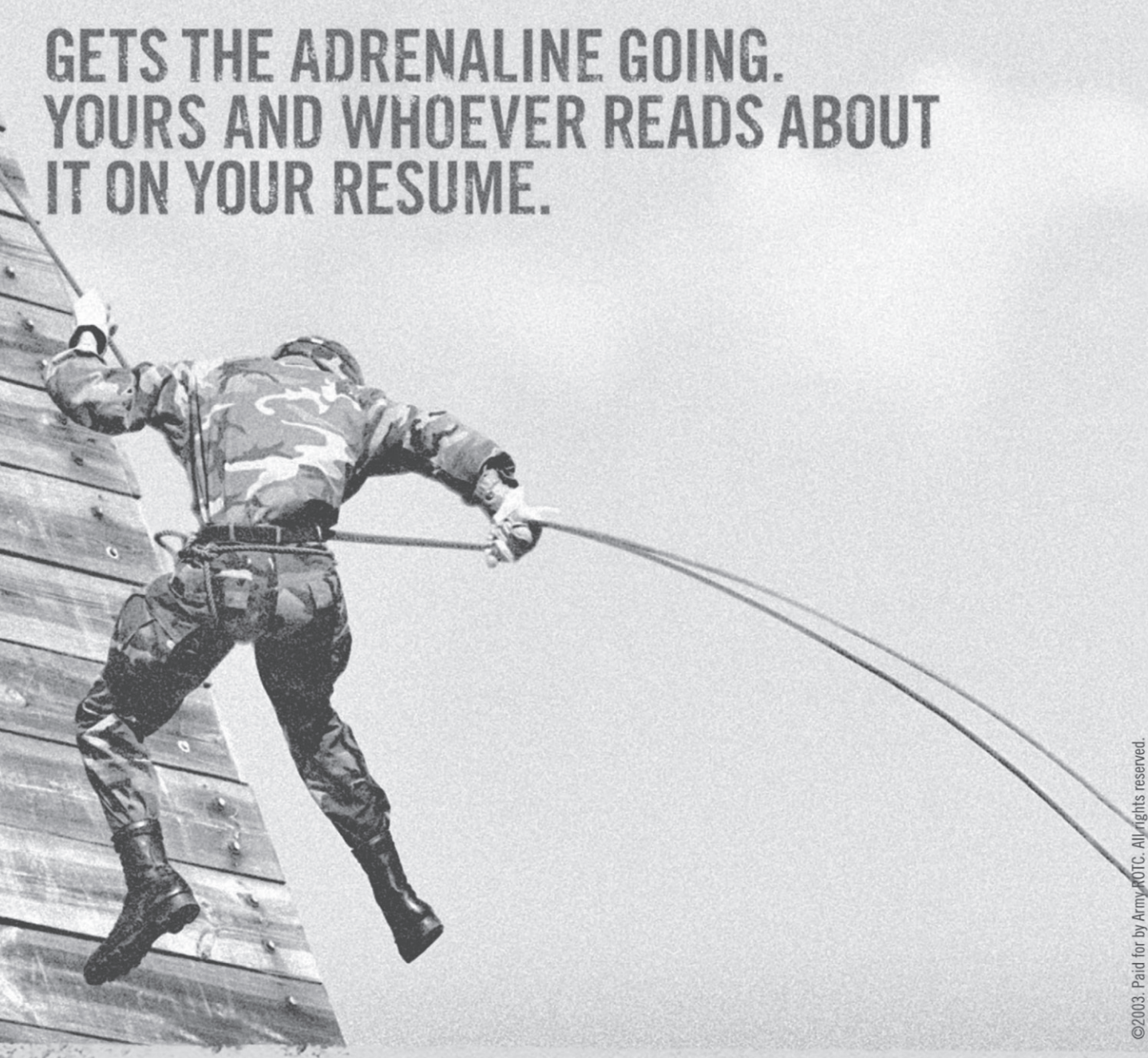
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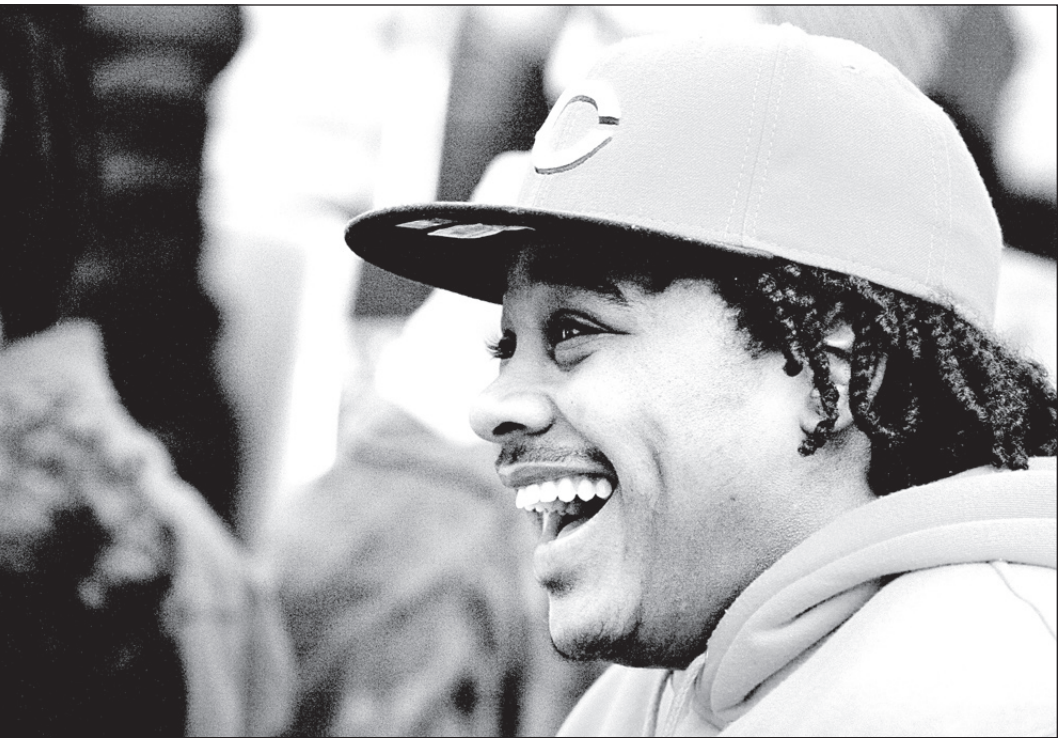
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CAMPUS LIFE



LUKE SHARRETT/HERALD

Lebanon junior Tyson Thompson laughs during an interactive forum held by the Black Men of Western in Mass Media and Technology Hall Monday night. The program encouraged discussion about racial issues, such as the “N” word on Western’s campus.

Forum addresses racist language

ALEX BOOZE
Herald reporter

Students turned out in large numbers Monday night to participate in “Are You a Nigger?”, a forum sponsored by the group Black Men at Western.

In light of Black History Month, the forum allowed students to discuss and debate what they thought of the use of racial slurs and how they affect black culture.

Hopkinsville graduate student Taurean Douglas attended because even though racial slurs are a negative part of American culture, they still play a significant part in shaping it, he said.

Douglas said during his time at Western, he’s been a target of racial slurs, but has learned how to act appropriately in those situations.

“Racism is an everyday

thing that I’ve experienced myself as a black man on campus,” he said. “But a physical altercation isn’t going to solve anything because we choose how powerful those words become.”

Kayla Tyson, a freshman from Dickson, Tenn., attended because the opinions and outlooks on the issue intrigued her.

“Regardless of who says (racial slurs), they can never be used in a funny or positive connotation,” she said. “People don’t realize what our great-grandparents and grandparents went through for those words to be abolished, so we can’t reclaim words that have been insults for so long.”

Tyson believes that even though she hasn’t been a target of racism, she knows it’s still prevalent everywhere.

“When people say them,

they don’t think about what they really mean,” she said. “I get offended if anyone says those words to me and I correct them, because I want them to know that is not what I am.”

Louisville junior Alford Beck Jr., president of Black Men at Western, has also been a target of racial name-calling.

“I’ve learned that you can’t control what people say and you can’t let it hurt you,” he said. “It only hurts you if you give those words power.”

Beck believes that racial name-calling can be demolished with education and expression of opinions.

“This isn’t something that will just go away on its own without effort,” he said. “Like anything, it’s going to take a little time.”

Reach Alex Booze at diversions@chherald.com.

SHOOTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

That push materialized as a bill that would require universities to issue public warnings within 30 minutes of a threat or emergency, which passed through the U.S. House of Representatives Feb. 8.

Western President Gary Randsell said Western’s alert systems are in place to make notifications faster than the bill requires.

In DeKalb, Ill., shots were fired shortly after 3 p.m., NIU President John Peters said in a press conference the day of the shooting. Campus police responded at 3:03, the campus was on lock-down four minutes later and at 3:20 the campus alarm systems sounded.

Administrators at NIU had been working on an emergency response plan for many months, Peters said.

“From all indications, it seems our security people were there right away,” Peters said.

Less than one week before the NIU shooting, Western ran its first test of an emergency alert system that has been in the making since the tragedy at Virginia Tech.

Telecommunications Director Edwin Craft said 11,676 subscribers received text messages in an average time of 15 minutes.

“Our original goal was for the messages to be received in less than 30 minutes and so far, we achieved a 99 percent rate,” Craft previously told the Herald.

Although crisis response plans are being crafted, Dewey Cornell, director for the Virginia Youth Violence Project, said the emphasis should be in crisis prevention.

“Prevention is not something that begins with a gunman in your parking lot,” Cornell said. “The most effective way to prevent school shootings is to encourage students to report threats of violence and to have a threat assessment team ready and able to investigate threats and determine how serious they are.”

These teams should combine mental health and law enforcement professionals, Cornell said.

Howard Bailey, dean of student life, said Western assembled such a team last November called the Threat Assessment Committee.

The committee meets every week to review reports by faculty and staff of any unusual

student behavior. It combines a cross section of individuals from around campus including campus police, Counseling and Testing Center, Housing and Residence Life, academic advising and Health Services.

The main function of the committee is to determine whether there is a need for intervention and which department would best address the situation to assist the student in question. There have not been any cases before the committee yet that would require expulsion or suspension of a student.

“That’s done rarely,” Bailey said. “It probably happens once every five or six years.”

Brian Van Brunt, director of the Counseling and Testing Center, and Libby Greaney, director of Health Services, said determining that a student is a threat is difficult to distinguish.

“Strange behavior in itself is not criminal, and strange behavior is around us every day,” Greaney said.

Van Brunt said it is important that students dealing with issues such as depression not feel targeted.

“Some of our great artists and great thinkers struggle with depression,” Van Brunt said.

“Look at 9/11. How do you profile a person who’s going to commit some horrific act or just someone who hates America?

There’s no good solid indicator for suicide or homicide. You look at past behaviors and build a case.”

The goal of the Counseling and Testing Center is to work with students who are distressed. However, a student who has been brought to Howard Bailey or campus police as having displayed

“The most effective way to prevent school shootings is to encourage students to report threats of violence and to have a threat assessment team ready and able to investigate threats and determine how serious they are.”

—Dewey Cornell
Director for the
Virginia Youth Violence Project

disorderly conduct might be sent there for an assessment.

“We’re on the treatment end of things,” Van Brunt said.

“We don’t want to kick them right out of school, but we want to figure out a plan to help them get through it.”

Although Western is prepared to react to a crisis, prevention depends on administrators being notified by students of a problem, Randsell said.

While it is important to encourage distressed students to seek treatment, Cornell said, “It is even more important to encourage students to seek help for their friends.”

Reporter Larry Rowell contributed to this article.

Reach the reporters at news@chherald.com.

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CAMPUS LIFE



ALTON STRUPP/HERALD

Potential customers browse the art and baked goods on sale at the “Ellithorpe Disaster Relief Fund” in the fine arts center gallery Thursday evening. Associate Art Professor Mike Nichols ran the fundraiser. The goal of the fundraiser is to assist Kim Ellithorpe, a former Western art student, and her family. After Ellithorpe and her family relocated to Fairview, Tenn., their home was destroyed in the recent storms.

Art sale benefits victims of southeastern storms

EILEEN RYAN
Herald reporter

On Valentine’s Day, tables in the fine arts center were adorned with ceramic art, colorful canvases, handmade valentines and baked goods for sale.

For former student Kim Ellithorpe, the sale demonstrated that the big heart of the art department surpassed the holiday.

Members of the Art Guild sold artwork and baked goods at the Show of Love fundraiser to benefit victims of tornado damage. Students, faculty, staff and Bowling Green residents also gave canned foods, clothes, blankets and toiletries.

The event raised more than \$1,000 in sales and donations.

Art Guild sponsor Mike Nichols organized the sale when he heard that the house of a former student’s family was destroyed.

Kim Ellithorpe, a former art major, was in Bowling Green Wednesday when she heard her family’s doublewide trailer home in Fairview, Tenn., was destroyed by a tornado Feb. 5, along with the rest of the neighborhood.

“It just picked the house up, turned it upside down and dropped it,” Ellithorpe said.

Ellithorpe’s stepsisters and stepmother, Becky Ellithorpe, moved into the house, which was owned by Becky Ellithorpe’s mother a month ago.

When Kim Ellithorpe’s father died in August, Becky Ellithorpe had to sell her house. She and her daughters moved into her mother’s house.

Kim Ellithorpe contacted Nichols about

organizing a fundraiser to help her family. Students and faculty quickly organized the fundraiser when they heard about Ellithorpe’s situation, Nichols said.

“Kim was a wonderful student and she’s respected by the students and the faculty up here alike,” Nichols said.

Kim Ellithorpe also set up a bank account for donations called the Ellithorpe Family Relief Fund at Integra Bank in Bowling Green.

Kim Ellithorpe will give the money and collected items to her family and other families affected by the tornados.

“There are a lot of people there that lost everything,” she said. “It wasn’t just my family.”

Carolyn Howard, a Building Services Attendant in FAC, saw the sale on Thursday and asked Nichols what it was for.

After she heard Ellithorpe’s story, she went to her church for support.

Howard brought Nichols a check Monday morning for \$250 from the members of Mission of Life Church. The church will continue to collect money and items for the Ellithorpes and other families, Howard said.

“We’re not doing it for the recognition, we’re just doing God’s work,” Howard said.

The Art Guild will hold another art and bake sale benefitting the Ellithorpe Family Relief Fund Thursday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in FAC.

But the thank-you’s have already begun.

“It’s been amazing the help that people have given,” Kim Ellithorpe said. “It kind of restores my faith in humanity.”

“It’s been amazing the help that people have given. It kind of restores my faith in humanity.”

— Kim Ellithorpe
former art major

Reach Eileen Ryan
at news@chherald.com.

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TRACK & FIELD



ALTON STRUPP/HERALD

Western track sprinters get some practice in coming out of the blocks on Thursday afternoon. The track team has broken numerous records this season and looks to continue its success throughout the spring.

Two sign with Western

CHRIS ACREE
Herald reporter

The other schools in the Sun Belt Conference will get a surprise next season.

Coach Erik Jenkins announced Monday that the Western track and field program has signed two athletes to National Letters of Intent.

The team signed Hickman native Sharika Smith and St. Louis, Mo. native Jantelle McNeil.

Both are no stranger to track and field success.

Smith has won a total of 12 Kentucky Class A high school championships in multiple events. She also won the national AAU championship in the triple jump in 2007.

She holds the Kentucky High School Athletic Association records in both the triple jump and the 200-meter dash.

“Sharika Smith is an outstanding sprinter and jumper out of the state of Kentucky,” Jenkins said. “You name a

school, she was recruited by them. She is about as good as they come out of the state of Kentucky.”

Joining Smith is another multi-event athlete in McNeil.

McNeil was on the Hazelwood East High School team that finished second in the Missouri State Track and Field championships in 2007. In that meet, she placed third in the 100-meter hurdles, fourth in the 300-meter hurdles, and was a member of the second-place 4x400 relay team.

McNeil has also competed in the heptathlon in three national meets. She placed 18th in the USA Junior Nationals with a personal best of 4,384 points.

In the AAU Junior Olympic Games, she placed sixth with 4,364 points, and placed fourth in the Great Southwest Classic with 4,212 points.

“Jantelle has competed in three of the highest-caliber junior meets in the country,” Jenkins said. “She is definitely another athlete that is on the rise.”

Sophomore Gavin Smellie said he was excited to have them as part of the track and field team.

“I was pleased to hear that they signed here,” Smellie said. “I think they will be a great, athletic part of the team.”

Sophomore Brian Soverns agrees.

“We hope they can be successful in whatever events they participate in.”

Jenkins said that Smith and McNeil will be critical in the larger goals of the women’s track team.

“We want to be a dominant program in the Sun Belt Conference in women’s track and field and cross-country,” Jenkins said. “We’re extremely happy to have those two young ladies on. It will be a very good thing for us to keep these young ladies healthy and watch them develop.”

Reach Chris Acree
at sports@chherald.com.

PITCHING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Both pitchers feel that they are better players because of their freshman experience.

“It was a learning experience,” Ridings said. “And we’ve learned from it.”

One of the biggest things that Myers has brought to the table is individual time for workouts, Carter said.

“Whenever Coach Myers feels like he needs to get individual work in, or even if we want individual work, we can just ask him and he’ll be here at the drop of a hat,” Carter said.

The reason for the indi-

vidual time, Myers said, is that pitchers are unique in how they handle their business of pitching.

That time has proved to pay off in Myers eyes.

“You won’t just be seeing seven or eight guys in heavy rotation this year,” he said. “Instead, fans can expect to see 12 to 13 names contributing to the team’s success.”

The pitching staff is also looking to improve from finishing ninth overall in pitching in the Sun Belt, with an ERA of 6.11.

Myers said senior Colby Beach and junior Matt Hightower have both done a phenomenal job and have exceeded everything he thought they would do at this

point after combining for 77 strikeouts last season.

Ridings feels that the pitchers have been in season form for some time now.

“We’re more ready this year,” Ridings said. “It seems like we could have started a month ago and we would’ve been ready.”

Myers said the staff has bought into a new philosophy.

“We’re going to throw lots of strikes,” Myers said. “Contact is our friend.”

With a big ballpark and a defense that is also returning many of its starters, Myers said it would be foolish not to use that to their advantage.

Reach Ryan Carey
at sports@chherald.com.

START

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

On Saturday, the Lady Toppers played a triple-header, losing the third game to Oklahoma State by a 5-4 margin and defeating Notre Dame (6-5) and Southern Utah (1-0).

Western fell behind Notre

Dame 3-1 early, but gained a lead of 5-3 in the bottom of the fifth off junior third baseman and current Sun Belt player of the week Rebecca Horesky’s grand slam.

“They hadn’t pitched to me all day and I knew they had to now, so I told coach, ‘I’m going to hit in this gap or that gap,’” Horesky said. “And then I ended up hitting the bomb.”

The Lady Toppers were

able to hold off a late surge by the Fighting Irish and won the game 6-5.

In their first game of the triple-header, the Lady Toppers beat Southern Utah behind sophomore right fielder Lindsay Antone’s solo home run and Rogge’s shutout pitching performance.

On Friday, Western defeated Oregon State, ranked No. 25 in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate poll 3-2.

“Beating teams like Oregon State and playing teams like Arizona State are really going to make us win when things get tough,” Rogge said. “Conference is going to look

almost like a breeze after the weekend we had.”

The season opener against No. 2-ranked Arizona State on Thursday wasn’t as close as the rest of the Lady Toppers contests.

Perry said that the team started the game very well, holding the lead early in the game.

Western had a defensive letdown and ended up losing to the Lady Sun Devils 11-3.

Western continues its season this weekend in the Mercer Wingate Classic, beginning against Mississippi State at 9 a.m. Friday in Macon. Ga.

Reach Corey Ogburn
at sports@chherald.com

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TENNIS

Lady Tops earn first win; Tops find form this weekend

SARAH HYMAN
Herald reporter

For the first time all season, both of Western's tennis teams ended their weekend matches with a win.

Thanks to a solid showing in doubles, the Toppers (3-2) held off Austin Peay on Saturday 4-3.

"I feel really good about our doubles," coach Jeff True said. "I think it's where we want it to be right now."

Last weekend, Jeff True altered the doubles lineups in an effort to find combinations that would yield strong results during the rest of the season.

The no. 1 team of sophomore Thomas Krug and senior Chad True produced its second straight win, and the no. 3 pair of freshmen, Currie Martin and junior Andy True, also won their match.

"Changing up the doubles has made a lot of difference," Chad True said. "It definitely had a huge effect last weekend, so it's good that it's already paying off."

Jeff True said that as the match began, it looked as though the team would have a tough time winning even half of their singles match-ups. Western's top three singles competitors dropped their first sets.

But Krug rallied to win no. 1 singles, and Andy True and David Bowman posted wins at no. 4 and no. 6 to ensure a split at singles.

"That was a big boost for the team," True said.

The Lady Toppers (1-4) posted their first win of the season, defeating Lipscomb 5-2.

In the women's competition, the singles points made the difference as the Lady Toppers took four of six matches after securing the doubles point.

"After we won the doubles, it took a little pressure off in the singles," senior Brittany Waiz said.

Freshmen Carrie True and Leanne Caplinger posted singles victories, with True overcoming six match points to win at the no. 5 position.

"Changing up the doubles has made a lot of difference. It definitely had a huge effect last weekend, so it's good that it's already paying off."

— Chad True
Senior

Waiz said the team felt as though "everything was starting to come together" after a tough start to the season.

"I think all of our practice has started paying off," she said.

The Toppers and Lady Toppers will trade opponents this weekend, with the women traveling to Austin Peay at noon Friday and the Toppers facing Lipscomb at 8 a.m. Sunday at Total Fitness Connection.

Reach Sarah Hyman
at sports@chherald.com.



DANIEL HOUGHTON/HERALD

(Above) Junior guard Kevin Kanaskie struggles to get past Western senior guard Courtney Lee during Saturday's game in Murfreesboro. Western defeated MTSU 71-66. (Left) Freshman forward D.J. Magley goes for a rebound over MTSU's Desmond Yates. The Toppers earned their 11th win in a row, despite shooting 40 percent from the field.

THROWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The game featured 11 ties and 10 lead changes.

The Toppers largest lead came with 6:07 in the second half, after a three-pointer by Lee to give Western an 62-54 lead. Lee would again hit a jumper with 5:12, but that would be the last field goal of the game for Western.

The Toppers scored their last seven points from the free throw line, missing only once.

"We just executed down the stretch," Brazelton said. "We

stayed together, stayed focused on what we wanted to do. It would have been easy for us to just give up."

While the Toppers' mantra lately has been to 'take things one game at a time,' down the stretch, nor Lee or Horn were afraid to compare Saturday's game to what they might see in the future.

"We look at this game as preparation for March (in the tournaments)," Lee said. "This is how it is going to be. The crowd is going to be like this, teams are going to be playing like this. So we just learn from this."

Horn said the challenge from MTSU was a good thing.

BLUE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

One of those letdowns was rebounding. Despite out-rebounding the Blue Raiders 40-33, the Lady Toppers gave up two key offensive rebounds in the last two minutes that allowed MTSU to score six points and seal the victory.

"Even before the two big rebounds at the end, we were giving up rebounds to guards,"

Kelly said. "That's out of character for us, especially as much as we emphasize rebounding."

Holt scored 10 points in the second half, with four of those coming in the last 30 seconds to put the game away for the Blue Raiders.

Holt led all scorers with 28 points. She also added eight boards and four steals. Blue Raider guard Chelsia Lymon went 3-5 from three-point range on her way to 18 points.

Kelly would go on to score 20 points and grab 11 boards for her 15th double-double of the season.

The loss comes after a convincing 72-52 home victory against Troy on Thursday.

Western scored first and never relinquished the lead in the game.

A 10-0 Lady Topper run to close the half 39-22 turned into a 8-0 run to open the second half as the Trojans never got closer than 13 points en route to the loss.

Despite scoring less than 20 points for only the eighth time this season, Kelly became the 23rd highest scorer in NCAA history in the contest.

points, I would have bet a lot of money we would have won the game." MTSU coach Kermit Davis said.

The Toppers 40.4 field goal percentage marks the second time this year Western has shot just 40 percent from the field and managed to win. They shot 40.4 percent in a 69-62 overtime win over Nebraska on Dec. 5.

The Toppers now sit alone atop the East division, following South Alabama's loss to MTSU on Feb. 14.

The Jaguars visit Western at 7 p.m. Thursday at Diddle Arena.

Reach Andrew Robinson
at sports@chherald.com.

CLASSIFIED INDEX

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Lady Tops pick up first win of season, men take down Austin Peay. page 11

► Track & Field

Track and Field signs two incoming freshman for the fall. page 10

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► Wednesday

Women’s basketball vs. South Alabama, 7 p.m., Diddle Arena

► Thursday

Men’s basketball vs. South Alabama, 7 p.m., Diddle Arena

► Friday

Women’s tennis at Austin Peay, 12 p.m.

Baseball vs. Bowling Green State, 3 p.m., Nick Denes Field

Softball vs. Mississippi State, 10 a.m., Mercer Wingate Classic, Macon, Ga.

Softball vs. Mercer, 1 p.m., Mercer Wingate Classic, Macon, Ga.

► Saturday

Track and Field at Sun Belt Conference meet, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Women’s basketball vs. Louisiana-Monroe, 3 p.m., Diddle Arena

Men’s basketball vs. Louisiana-Monroe, 7 p.m., Diddle Arena

Baseball vs. Bowling Green State, 2 p.m., Nick Denes Field

Softball vs. Austin Peay, 1 p.m., Mercer Wingate Classic, Macon, Ga.

Softball vs. Nicholls State, 5 p.m., Mercer Wingate Classic, Macon, Ga.

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SPORTS

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL



LUKE SHARRETT/HERALD

(Top) **Junior forward Dominique Duck defends** against Middle Tennessee State guard Chelsia Lymon during the Lady Toppers’ game at MTSU in Murfreesboro, Tenn. According to coach Mary Taylor Cowles, Duck played one of her best games on Sunday, scoring 16 points and seven rebounds.

(Above) **Freshman forward Arnika Brown struggles to break** through the Middle Tennessee State defense and reach the hoop. Brown came away from Sunday’s 68-60 loss with 12 points and nine rebounds.

feelin’
blue

MTSU continues home domination

CHRIS ACREE
Herald reporter

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Western has played in two consecutive “Think Pink” games to raise awareness for breast cancer.

But after their second loss in the past three games, the Lady Toppers may just be turning red in the face.

“(The loss to Middle Tennessee State) doesn’t make or break our season,” coach Mary Taylor Cowles said. “But it could have an effect on the future of our season if we don’t learn from our mistakes and improve and get better.”

Western (19-7, 12-2 SBC East) lost 68-60 at Middle Tennessee State (16-10, 11-4 Sun Belt Conference East Division) Sunday.

After a 12-game win streak, the Lady Toppers have lost two of the last three games.

A win would have clinched the division and a probable no. 1 seed in the conference tournament for Western.

Middle Tennessee guard Amber Holt, who leads the nation in scoring at 26.7 points per game, scored 18 points in the first half to help MTSU to a 40-32 lead at the half.

Senior forward Crystal Kelly could only manage five points in the opening half.

The Lady Toppers opened the half with a 12-4 run by Kelly and junior forward Dominique Duck to tie the contest.

The rest of the half featured seven lead changes.

“It was real tough, but I felt like we didn’t panic,” Duck said. “We stayed composed, and whether we were up or they were up we played the same. I just feel like we had more letdowns than they did.”

SEE BLUE, PAGE 11

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Free throws get
Tops past MTSU

ANDREW ROBINSON
Herald reporter

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — When senior guard Tyrone Brazelton fouled out Saturday, coach Darrin Horn paced to the end of the bench with his hands on his head.

He paused for a moment, folded his arms and watched the replay of the foul on the replay screen in the Murphy Center at the arena.

He shrugged his shoulders, and turned back around to substitute junior guard Orlando Mendez-Valdez.

And following the final buzzer after a steal by sophomore guard A.J. Slaughter with 6.2 seconds remaining, sealing the 71-66 win over Middle Tennessee State (12-13, 9-5 Sun Belt East), Horn again walked to that corner.

This time he was thanking the contingent of Western (21-5, 13-1 SBC East) fans who made the trip to Murfreesboro.

Like the momentum Saturday, Horn’s emotion changed in a matter of minutes.

“It was a March game,” senior guard Courtney Lee said. “It was a game of runs. They had good runs, we had good runs. Like I said, it was a tournament game.”

SEE THROWS, PAGE 11



DANIEL HOUGHTON/HERALD

Sophomore guard Jeremy Evans celebrates with senior forward Boris Siakam after scoring during Saturday’s game against MTSU. Western defeated the Blue Raiders 71-66.

Tuesday, February 19, 2008
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky
www.wkuherald.com

BASEBALL

Pitching
staff looks
to improve
under Myers

RYAN CAREY
Herald reporter

There is something new about this year’s pitching staff, but it’s not just some of the names on the roster.

The Toppers added Matt Myers to the coaching staff to take over as pitching coach, and he said there is one goal the Toppers want to make a realization this season.

“We want to win a (Sun Belt) championship,” Myers said. “I think that’s the goal every day we put our uniform on.”

After going 25-29 last year and barely missing a shot at the no. 2 seed in the Sun Belt Conference tournament, Myers feels that the players have really bought into the idea of an extreme amount of work ethic.



MATT MYERS

“There’s a way you go about (winning),” he said. “And it’s not you just take a sugar pill and there you go, it’s something you’ve got to learn. You’ve got to carry yourself the right way, prepare the right way, act the right way and be a sponge and learn the game.”

The staff also returns 11 pitchers from last season, seven of which saw action, with two of them starters.

Sophomores Bart Carter and Matt Ridings return to the mound this year after finishing their freshman year with a combined earned run average of 8.96 and record of 13-8.

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SOFTBALL

Hot start
to season for
Lady Toppers

COREY OGBURN
Herald reporter

The Lady Toppers’ softball team couldn’t bring back warm weather from Tempe, Ariz., this weekend, but they did bring back a hot opening to their season.

“The team did well overall,” coach Tyra Perry said. “(To finish) 4-2 in that type of tournament with that caliber of competition, we are obviously very pleased with that.”

While the Lady Toppers opened the with four victories, none of them came easy. With the exception of their season-opening contest, all the games were decided by one run.

Western ended the weekend with a 1-0 victory over Texas Tech on Sunday.

Junior pitcher Ryan Rogge tallied her fourth win of the season, and sophomore shortstop Kelsey McCauley’s single scored sophomore Shannon Smith for the only run in the contest.

— Tyra Perry
Coach

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